

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 10414 011558Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEAE-00

OMB-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 /192 W
----- 097419

R 011544Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3533

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, GW

SUBJECT: EC/EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN

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REF: DEPT.'S A-4058, EC BRUSSELS 4477

1. ACCORDING TO OUR ECONOMICS MINISTRY SOURCES THE HIJZEN APPROACH REPORTED IN REFTEL WAS AGREED UPON AFTER A LENGTHY DISCUSSION BY THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE. THE ISSUE WAS RAISED AT THAT MEETING BY HIJZEN WHO NOTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE GERMAN TRADE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (DIHT). THE FRG WAS PREVIOUSLY UNAWARE OF THE LETTER TO HIJZEN ALTHOUGH IT HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY THE DIHT ON THIS ISSUE AND HAD DECIDED TO DISCUSS IT AT A 113 DEPUTIES' MEETING. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES "SOME COUNTRIES" FELT THE US SURVEY WAS IMPROPER WHILE OTHERS (HE MENTIONED THE DANES) THOUGHT IT WAS A PERFECTLY NORMAL ACTIVITY.

2. THE FRG ITSELF HAS NOT APPROACHED THE EMBASSY ON THIS ISSUE AND IS NOT LIKELY TO DO SO. OUR CONTACTS ARGUE THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN MORE APPROPRIATE FOR THE US TO OBTAIN THIS INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM THE COMMISSION BUT THAT IN ANY EVENT IT IS NOT WORTH MAKING MUCH OF A FUSS.ABOUT. THEY ADDED THAT THEY MAY BE MAKING A SIMILAR SURVEY THEMSELVES OF THE IMPACT OF DISC ON THE EXPORTS OF US FIRMS. BOTH FRG ECONOMIC MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND DIHT SPOKESMEN TELL US THEY VIEW THE R/O EXERCISE AS A TACTICAL MISTAKE ON OUR PART AS IT MAY FORCE THE FRG TO ADOPT A LESS LIBERAL APPLICATION OF THE PRESENT REGULATIONS.

3. DIHT ON THE OTHER HAND HAS MADE NO BONES ABOUT ITS OBJECTION TO OUR SURVEY ALTHOUGH WE HAVE YET TO HEAR A CONVINCING RATIONALE FOR THESE OBJECTIONS. DIHT HAS "SUGGESTED" TO ITS MEMBERS THAT IT NOT COOPERATE WITH THE CONSULATE GENERALS IN THIS EXERCISE. THE ECON/COMM MINISTER AND ECONOMIC COUNSELOR ON SEPARATE OCCASIONS HAVE EXPLAINED TO DIHT OFFICIALS OUR VIEW THAT IT IS NORMAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE FOR EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONDITIONS IN ANY GIVEN COUNTRY WHICH MIGHT AFFECT THE SALE OF ITS PRODUCTS.

4. A LEADING GERMAN ECONOMIC NEWSPAPER WITH CLOSE TIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO THE GERMAN BUSINESS SECTOR (HANDELSBLATT) HAD AN ARTICLE ON THE RULES OF ORIGIN SURVEY WHICH WHILE NOT DIRECTLY CRITICAL OF THE SURVEY NOTED THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH DIHT AND HAD CAUSED SOME CONCERN IN GERMAN BUSINESS CIRCLES.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT. ALL THIS NOTWITHSTANDING WE AND THE CONSULATES GENERAL IN GERMANY WILL CONTINUE

OUR EFFORTS. WE ARE ALSO WORKING THROUGH THE AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN FRANKFURT. WE HOPE THAT DIHT'S
ACTIONS WILL NOT SERIOUSLY DAMAGE OUR ABILITY TO
OBTAIN A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE IMPACT OF RULES OF
ORIGIN ON US EXPORTS.
HILLENBRAND

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